Amendments to the Claims

In accordance with revised 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, please amend the claims as follows, with deletions shown by strikethrough and additions shown by underlining:

1. (Currently Amended) A composition ~~for treating an animal~~ comprising, ~~one or more genes, oligonucleotides, antisense nucleic acids, triplex DNA compounds, or ribozymes admixed with~~ a nonionic block copolymer, wherein the block copolymer has the following formula:

$$HO(C_2H_4O)_b(C_3H_6O)_a(C_2H_4O)_bH$$

wherein the molecular weight represented by the polyoxypropylene portion of the copolymer is between approximately 750 and 15,000 and the molecular weight represented by the polyoxyethylene portion of the copolymer is less than 50% of the total weight of the copolymer, and

one or more molecules selected from isolated or amplified nucleic acid sequences encoding gene products, oligonucleotides, antisense oligonucleotides, triplex DNA compounds, ribozymes, or mixtures thereof.

2. (Currently Amended) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the molecular weight represented by the polyoxypropylene portion of the copolymer is between approximately 2,250 and 15,000 and the molecular weight represented by the polyoxyethylene portion of the copolymer constitutes between approximately 5% and 25% of the total weight of the copolymer.

3. (Currently Amended) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the molecular weight represented by the polyoxypropylene portion of the copolymer is between approximately 3,250 and 15,000 and the molecular weight represented by the polyoxyethylene portion of the copolymer constitutes between approximately 5% and 25% of the total weight of the copolymer.

4. (Original) The composition of Claim 1 wherein the copolymer is CRL-8131 or CRL-8142.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 1 further comprising approximately 0.1% to approximately 5% by weight of a surfactant and approximately 0.5% to approximately 5% by volume of a low molecular weight alcohol.

7. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 6 wherein the surfactant is polyoxyethylene (20) sorbitan monooleate and the alcohol is ethanol.

8. (Currently Amended) The composition of ~~Claim 7~~ Claim 1, further comprising an expression vector~~, and wherein the compound for altering gene activity is a nucleic acid sequence contained in the expression vector, and the expression vector is~~ capable of expressing the nucleic acid ~~sequence~~ sequences.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of delivering a ~~compound~~ molecule ~~for altering gene activity~~ to an animal, comprising[[,]] administering to ~~an~~ the animal a composition comprising ~~one or more genes, oligonucleotides, antisense nucleic acids, triplex DNA compounds, or ribozymes admixed with~~ a nonionic block copolymer, wherein the block copolymer has the following formula:

$$HO(C_2H_4O)_b(C_3H_6O)_a(C_2H_4O)_bH$$

wherein the molecular weight represented by the polyoxypropylene portion of the copolymer is between approximately 750 and 15,000 and the molecular weight represented by the polyoxyethylene portion of the copolymer is less than 50% of the total weight of the copolymer, and

one or more molecules selected from isolated or amplified nucleic acid sequences encoding gene products, oligonucleotides, antisense oligonucleotides, triplex DNA compounds, ribozymes, or mixtures thereof.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 9, wherein the molecular weight represented by the polyoxypropylene portion of the copolymer is between approximately

2,250 and 15,000 and the molecular weight represented by the polyoxyethylene portion of the copolymer constitutes between approximately 5% and 20% of the total weight of the copolymer.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 9, wherein the molecular weight represented by the polyoxypropylene portion of the copolymer is between approximately 3,250 and 15,000 and the molecular weight represented by the polyoxyethylene portion of the copolymer constitutes between approximately 5% and 20% of the total weight of the copolymer.

12. (Original) The composition of Claim 9 wherein the copolymer is CRL-8131 or CRL-8142.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 9, wherein the composition further ~~comprising~~ comprises approximately 0.1% to approximately 5% by weight of a surfactant and approximately 0.5% to approximately 5% by volume of ~~an~~ a low molecular weight alcohol.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 14 wherein the surfactant is polyoxyethylene (20) sorbitan monooleate and the alcohol is ethanol.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 9, wherein the composition further ~~comprising~~ comprises an expression vector~~, wherein the compound for altering gene activity is a nucleic acid sequence contained in the expression vector, and the expression vector is~~ capable of expressing the nucleic acid ~~sequence~~ sequences.

17. (New) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the one or more molecules are selected from isolated or amplified nucleic acid sequences encoding gene products or antisense oligonucleotides.

18. (New) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises an antimicrobial drug.

19. (New) The method of Claim 9, wherein the one or more molecules are used for altering gene activity.

20. (New) The method of Claim 9, wherein the one or more molecules are selected from isolated or amplified nucleic acid sequences encoding gene products or antisense oligonucleotides.

21. (New) The method of Claim 20, wherein the one or more molecules are used for intracellular immunization.

22. (New) The method of Claim 20, wherein the one or more molecules are used for hybridization with one or more targeted RNA messages of a cell or virus.

23. (New) The method of Claim 20, wherein the one or more molecules are used for supplying a normal copy of a defective gene to the animal.

24. (New) A composition consisting essentially of a nonionic block copolymer, wherein the block copolymer has the following formula:

$$HO(C_2H_4O)_b(C_3H_6O)_a(C_2H_4O)_bH$$

wherein the molecular weight represented by the polyoxypropylene portion of the copolymer is between approximately 750 and 15,000 and the molecular weight represented by the polyoxyethylene portion of the copolymer is less than 50% of the total weight of the copolymer, and

one or more molecules selected from nucleic acid sequences encoding gene products, oligonucleotides, antisense oligonucleotides, triplex DNA compounds, ribozymes, or mixtures thereof.

25. (New) A method of delivering a molecule into a cell, comprising contacting the cell with a composition comprising a nonionic block copolymer, wherein the block copolymer has the following formula:

$$HO(C_2H_4O)_b(C_3H_6O)_a(C_2H_4O)_bH$$

wherein the molecular weight represented by the polyoxypropylene portion of the copolymer is between approximately 750 and 15,000 and the molecular weight represented by the polyoxyethylene portion of the copolymer is less than 50% of the total weight of the copolymer, and

one or more molecules selected from nucleic acid sequences encoding gene products, oligonucleotides, antisense oligonucleotides, triplex DNA compounds, ribozymes, or mixtures thereof.

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26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the composition further comprises an expression vector capable of expressing the nucleic acid sequences.

27. (New) The method of Claim 25, wherein the one or more molecules are used for altering gene activity.

28. (New) The method of Claim 25, wherein the one or more molecules are selected from nucleic acid sequences encoding gene products or antisense oligonucleotides.

29. (New) The method of Claim 28, wherein the one or more molecules are used for intracellular immunization.

30. (New) The method of Claim 28, wherein the one or more molecules are used for hybridization with one or more targeted RNA messages of a cell or virus.

31. (New) The method of Claim 28, wherein the one or more molecules are used for supplying a normal copy of a defective gene to the animal.